

DDS Consumer Advisory Committee

Employment Presentation Notes

11/9/10

Committee Statements

Values:

People with developmental disabilities throughout the United States work where ever they want and get the support and assistance they need to become contributors. Not a lot of people with developmental disability have jobs.

People with developmental disabilities have the same rights people without disabilities.

Earning your own money helps people learn responsibility, it takes developing a circle of support.

Options and Priorities:

- I would like to work for myself.
- Have a regular job instead of enclave.
- It feels good to be part of the workforce and part of the community.
- Not have a sub minimum wage – which means below minimum wage.
- If you don't have the skills or degree, but have talent and interest – you should have a job.

High school and Transition:

- Students getting ready for a job need learning experience in school
- Give them encouragement to get a job and earn their own money.
- Start working as a teenager will give you experience
- High school students need more opportunities for same jobs.
- Middle school kids need to have jobs and experience.
- Have real jobs with other workers.
- Money is a motivator, buying a car - don't have to depend on mom and dad for allowance.

Benefits

- Have a way to not lose social security when we earn a living.
- Information on (benefit) programs is needed.

Business Community Outreach

- Have an outside committee talk to employers to network and advocate for more employment.
- Educate employers that we are valuable.